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EXAMINER AUGUSTIN, MARCELLUS				
ART UNIT 2625		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

OfficeAction25944@oliff.com
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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/822,756

Applicant(s)

KIYOSU ET AL.

Examiner

MARCELLUS AUGUSTIN

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 07/23/2010 has been entered and made of record. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-10 and 12 have been amended. Currently, claims 1-12 are pending. Examiner refers to the action below.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/23/2010 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it does not fall within the range of 50 to 150 words, it is more than 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject

matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant admitted Prior Art (AAPA), in view Kiyosu et al. (US PG PUB No. 2001/0052998), hereinafter Kiyosu.

As per claim 1, AAPA discloses a print service support system for supporting print service for producing prints related to data while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a print service support producing prints while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies) comprising: a unit for accepting information for specifying the plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies); a unit for generating project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project, the project information including at least a part of the information for specifying the plurality of agencies and remarkable machine information for specifying a given remarkable print output machine of print output machines which are available in the project to be carried out ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print

orders or data delivered include project information to be reproduce by a machine in the agency); a selection unit for selecting at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies, which information is included in the generated project information ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the selection is indicative of at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies); a unit for generating device link profile information for each agency specified by the information selected by the selection unit, the device link profile information including information specifying the agency, each agency having a plurality of remarkable print output machines and the device link profile information containing information for each remarkable print output machine at the agency, and the remarkable print output machine being a print output machine available in a final output process ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein delivering the data to each agency, the selection is indicative of at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies wherein a device link information to specify the device or agency and a production agency comprises a plurality machines remarkably like a publisher, prepress, an output machine and the like); and a storage unit for storing the generated device link profile information ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a computing device such a computer or a print manager which obviously includes a storage unit for storing the generated device link profile information manager selecting among a plurality of agencies); wherein the device link profile information is used for delivering data from one of the agencies to

another ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA further discloses data deliveries among the agencies wherein the data delivery obviously include device link profile information).

However, AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine using a print output machine to be used by the agency.

Kiyosu discloses wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine using a print output machine to be used by the agency ([0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]; Kiyosu discloses a production agency or company comprising a plurality of output machines wherein a server selects an output device based on device link information, said information comprises color color reproducibility information to best match a target color using color measurement and comparison for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine result using a print output machine to be used by the agency).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine as discussed above to generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device wherein minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies thereby increase throughput wherein one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 2 (depend on claim 1), AAPA does not disclose a unit for accepting sequence information for defining delivery sequence of data among the agencies specified by information included in the project information; wherein the device link profile information is generated sequentially in the sequence defined by the sequence information, and stored by the storage unit.

Kiyosu discloses the print service support system further comprising: a unit for accepting sequence information for defining delivery sequence of data among the agencies specified by information included in the project information (Figs. 3 and 5; Kiyosu discloses a print system wherein a delivery sequence of color profiles to the output units based on ranking order accepted by the center system 12); wherein the device link profile information is generated sequentially in the sequence defined by the sequence information, and stored by the storage unit (Fig.5 and 6 and [0055]; Kiyosu discloses a unit 653 to generate device link profiles stored in the storage section 14 wherein sequential device link profiles wherein a remote system 2 comes before a remote device 3 and remote device N comes afterwards).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include

wherein sequence information for defining delivery sequence of data among the agencies and the device link profile information is generated sequentially as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or agencies in an orderly fashion, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add sequence information to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 3 (depend on claim 1), AAPA discloses a unit for acquiring information from each of the plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA does disclose acquiring information about the agencies wherein the selection of agencies and the delivery data is obviously done on well known established protocols).

However, AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein the information including information for specifying color reproducibility of one or more print output machines available by the agency, and information for specifying one of the one or more print output machines as default; wherein the unit for generating device link profile information generates device link profile information using information for specifying color reproducibility of the print output machine specified as default, of the information for specifying color reproducibility of the one or more print output machines which information is acquired from each agency.

Kiyosu discloses the information including information for specifying color reproducibility of one or more print output machines available by the agency, and information for specifying one of the one or more print output machines as default ([0055], [0066] and [0097]; Kiyosu discloses specifying an output unit as destination target which can inherently be a default target wherein clients in the form of agencies can each comprise one or a plurality of output devices wherein color reproducibility, print technology, machine property, model ID are acquired and registered); wherein the unit for generating device link profile information generates device link profile information using information for specifying color reproducibility of the print output machine specified as default, of the information for specifying color reproducibility of the one or more print output machines which information is acquired from each agency (Fig.6, [0055], [0066] and [0097]; Kiyosu discloses a unit 653 to generate device link profiles stored in the storage section 14 wherein the color conversion section 14 acquires conversion information of the output units based on model ID, print reproducibility, wherein a given printer is designated as output destination which can inherently be a default printer with equivalent print reproduction means).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein color reproducibility of one or more print output machines and generating device link profile information as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or agencies in an orderly fashion, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted

output device thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add sequence information to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 4, AAPA discloses a print service support method for supporting print service for producing prints related to data while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a print service support producing prints while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies) comprising the steps of: generating project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project, the project information including at least a part of the information for specifying the plurality of agencies and remarkable machine information for specifying a given remarkable print output machine of print output machines which are available in the project to be carried out selecting at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies, which information is included in the generated project information ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project to reproduce by a machine in the agency, AAPA further discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies); generating device link profile information for each

agency specified by the information selected in the selecting step, the device link profile information including information for specifying the agency, each agency having a plurality of remarkable print output machines and the device link profile information for each remarkable print output machine at the agency, and the remarkable print output machine being a print output machine available in a final output process ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein delivering the data to each agency, the selection is indicative of at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies wherein a device link information to obviously specify the device or agency wherein a production agency comprises a plurality machines remarkably like a publisher, prepress, an output machine and the like); and storing the generated device link profile information ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a computing device such a computer or a print manager which obviously includes a storage unit for storing the generated device link profile information manager selecting among a plurality of agencies); wherein the steps are executed by a computer system ([0005]); the device link profile information is used for delivering data from one of the agencies to another ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA further discloses data deliveries among the agencies wherein the data delivery obviously include device link profile information); and wherein at least one of the steps is executed using a processor ([0005], the agency computing device receiving the data with the device link uses at least a processor to execute at least one of the steps).

However, AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color

reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine using a print output machine to be used by the agency.

Kiyosu discloses wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine using a print output machine to be used by the agency ([0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]; Kiyosu discloses a production agency or company comprising a plurality of output machines wherein a server selects an output device based on device link information, said information comprises color color reproducibility, information to best match a target color using color measurement and comparison for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine result using a print output machine to be used by the agency).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine as discussed above to generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device wherein minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies thereby increase throughput wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 5, AAPA discloses a print service support program executed in a computer-readable storage medium, for realizing a processing to a computer to support print service for producing prints related to data while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a print service support producing prints while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies, the data transmission and delivery is performed by a computing device or a system manager comprising a program executed in a computer-readable storage medium for producing prints related to data while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies) comprising: generating project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project, the project information including at least a part of the information for specifying the plurality of agencies and remarkable machine information for specifying, of print output machines available in the project to be carried out, a given remarkable print output machine ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project to reproduce by a machine in the agency, AAPA further discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies); selecting at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies, which information is included in the generated project information ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system

manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies); generating device link profile information for each agency specified by the information selected in the selecting step, the device link profile information for specifying agency, each agency having a plurality of remarkable print output machines and the device link profile information for each remarkable print output machine at the agency, and the remarkable print output machine being a print output machine available in a final output process ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein delivering the data to each agency, the selection is indicative of at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies wherein a device link information to obviously specify the device or agency wherein a production agency comprises a plurality machines remarkably like a publisher, prepress, an output machine and the like); storing the generated device link profile information in a storage unit ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a computing device such a computer or a print manager which obviously includes a storage unit for storing the generated device link profile information manager selecting among a plurality of agencies); wherein the device link profile information is used for delivering data from one of the agencies to another ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA further discloses data deliveries among the agencies wherein the data delivery obviously include device link profile information).

However, AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color

reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine using a print output machine to be used by the agency.

Kiyosu discloses wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine using a print output machine to be used by the agency ([0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]; Kiyosu discloses a production agency or company comprising a plurality of output machines wherein a server selects an output device based on device link information, said information comprises color color reproducibility information to best match a target color using color measurement and comparison for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine result using a print output machine to be used by the agency).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein the device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility of the remarkable print output machine as discussed above to generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device wherein minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies thereby increase throughput wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add device link profile information containing color reproducibility, including information for simulating color reproducibility to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 6, AAPA discloses a print service support system ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a print service support producing prints while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies) comprising: the database retaining predetermined processing parameters for data to be delivered from an agency which will be a delivery source of the data to an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data, each agency having a plurality of devices. ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project and inherently processing parameters to carry out the print commands well known in the art to reproduce by a machine in the agency, AAPA further discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies wherein a production agency comprises a plurality machines remarkably like a publisher, prepress, an output machine and the like).

However, AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit; and a database generated in advance based on profile information about a device to be used by each agency; wherein as to data related to print service accepted from a delivery source by one server unit of the data acceptance server group, one server unit of the data processing server group acquires, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters between an agency which

will be a delivery destination of the data and an agency which will perform final output of the data, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters; and wherein one server unit of the data delivery server group distributes the processed data to the agency which will be a delivery destination of the data; and the profile information containing color reproducibility information for each device at the agency.

Kiyosu discloses a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit (Figs. 6, 7 and 9; Kiyosu discloses at least a client wherein predetermined profiles or parameters are acquired and stored in storage section 14 wherein a production company comprises a data acceptance group and a data processing group, and a printing company as a data delivery server group); and a database generated in advance based on profile information about a device to be used by each agency (Fig. 6, , [0020], [0055] and [0097]; the storage section 14 comprises the database wherein reproducibility processing such as print technology and conversion profiles are acquired and registered); wherein as to data related to print service accepted from a delivery source by one server unit of the data acceptance server group, one server unit of the data processing server group acquires, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters between an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data and an agency which will perform final output of the data, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters (Fig. 6, [0055] and [0097]; Kiyosu discloses a unit 653 to generate device link profiles specifying an output device

accepted by the center server 601 stored in the storage section 14 wherein the color conversion section 14 acquires conversion information of the output units from the database comprising model ID, print reproducibility); wherein one server unit of the data delivery server group distributes the processed data to the agency which will be a delivery destination of the data ([0066] and [0097]; Kiyosu discloses specifying in advance an output target or a destination device located at a client to output a print); and the profile information containing color reproducibility information for each device at the agency (Figs. 6 and 9 and [0020]; Kiyosu discloses a color image print processing system wherein individual agencies or clients each comprising one or more output devices wherein performing individual color conversion is prevented wherein generating a color information comprising target information and color reproducibility information for each device at the agency, color matched and outputted to the clients so that the target color and the original data are printed out in the same hue and tint).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit; and a database generated in advance based on profile information about a device to be used by each agency as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or agencies, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add the server groups and the database to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 7 (depends on claim 6), AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein the number of server units belonging to each of the data acceptance server group, the data processing server group and the data delivery server group is determined in accordance with a load on the server units in each of the server groups.

However, Kiyosu discloses wherein the number of server units belonging to each of the data acceptance server group, the data processing server group and the data delivery server group is determined in accordance with a load on the server units in each of the server groups (Fig.9, [0092]-[0093]; Kiyosu discloses a plurality of center servers, general purpose computers, clients indicative of individual servers wherein accepting, execute preprocessing of color information to simulate an output color to match a print result wherein the number of servers or CPU or processors needed to acquire profiles and run those printers inherently depends on the amount of machines they had to run).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein number of server units in accordance with a load on the server units in each of the server groups as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or

agencies in an orderly fashion, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add sequence information to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 8 (depends on claim 6), AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein a data check server group including at least one server unit; wherein only when one server unit belonging to the data check server group concludes that data accepted by a server unit belonging to the data acceptance server group satisfies a predetermined check condition for an agency set as a delivery destination of the data, one server unit of the data processing server group acquires, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters between an agency which is a delivery source of the data and an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters.

However, Kiyosu discloses wherein a data check server group including at least one server unit (Fig. 6 and [0055]; Kiyosu discloses the center server 601 upon receiving the project and conversion information from output devices through communication 17, collation is performed with said reception and data stored in storage section 14 wherein reproducibility and print technology checks are performed) wherein

only when one server unit belonging to the data check server group concludes that data accepted by a server unit belonging to the data acceptance server group satisfies a predetermined check condition for an agency set as a delivery destination of the data, one server unit of the data processing server group acquires, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters between an agency which is a delivery source of the data and an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters (Fig.6, [0055], [0066] and [0097]; Kiyosu discloses specifying in advance an output target or a destination device located at a client to output a print wherein collation or check are performed to satisfy predetermined condition for example color reproducibility wherein the conversion section 13 acquires conversion information specific to target color and printer from the database or storage section 14 stored in advance to conduct processing based on the color management section 19).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein one server unit belonging to the data check server group concludes that data accepted by a server unit belonging to the data acceptance server group satisfies a predetermined check condition for an agency set as a delivery destination of the data as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or agencies in an orderly fashion, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add sequence information to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 9, AAPA discloses a print service support method using a database generated in advance based on profile information about a device to be used by each agency, the database retaining predetermined processing parameters for data to be delivered from an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data to an agency which will perform final output of the data, ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies or profile information to carry out a project and inherently processing parameters to carry out the print commands well known in the art to reproduce by a machine in the agency, AAPA further discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies wherein a production agency comprises a plurality machines remarkably like a publisher, prepress, an output machine and the like) the method comprising the steps of: processing parameters between an agency which is a delivery source of the data and an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters, each agency having a plurality of devices ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses selection a plurality of agencies to reproduce print

orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project and inherently processing parameters to carry out the print commands well known in the art to reproduce by a machine in the agency, AAPA further discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies wherein a production agency comprises a plurality machines remarkably like a publisher, prepress, an output machine and the like).

AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit, and allowing one server unit of the data delivery server group to distribute the processed data to the agency which will be a delivery destination of the data, and the profile information containing color reproducibility information for each device at the agency, wherein at least one of the steps is executed using a processor.

Kiyosu discloses wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit (Fig.9, [0092]-[0093]; Kiyosu discloses a plurality of client systems, centers, general purpose computer wherein each one is indicative of a server to accept, process, and deliver data to a production company, a flatbed machine in the plate company, a printer in the printing company), allowing one server unit of the data processing server group to acquire data related to print service accepted from a delivery source by one server unit of the data acceptance server group (Fig.6 and [0055]; Kiyosu discloses predetermined

parameters, conditions were determined and transferred to storage 14 for registration comprising target devices, model ID, color reproducibility and print technology wherein the conversion section 13 acquires device conversion information from the database or storage 14 to conduct processing); allowing the server unit acquiring the data to acquire, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters between an agency which is a delivery source of the data and an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters (Fig.6 and [0055]; Kiyosu discloses the conversion section 13 acquires conversion information from the database to conduct processing, in a case where conversion information is not specified or registered for a machine, the instruction terminal 653 can transmit said conversion information to the server 601); and allowing one server unit of the data delivery server group to distribute the processed data to the agency which will be a delivery destination of the data (Fig.6 and [0055]; Kiyosu discloses once conversion processing is completed with proper color matching to distribute the print to assigned printers as stored in storage section 14). and wherein at least one of the steps is executed using a processor (Fig. 1; Kiyosu discloses an instruction terminal wherein a processor execute the steps to perform a print processing) and the profile information containing color reproducibility information for each device at the agency (Figs. 6 and 9 and [0020]; Kiyosu discloses a color image print processing system wherein individual agencies or clients each comprising one or more output devices wherein performing individual color conversion is prevented wherein generating a color information comprising target information and color

reproducibility information for each device at the agency, color matched and outputted to the clients so that the target color and the original data are printed out in the same hue and tint).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit; a database generated in advance based on profile information and color reproducibility information as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or agencies, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add the server groups and the database to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 10, AAPA discloses a print service support system for supporting print service for producing prints related to data while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies or profile information to carry out a project and inherently processing parameters to carry out the print commands well

known in the art to reproduce by a machine in the agency) comprising: a unit for accepting information for specifying the plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies); a unit for generating project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project, the project information including at least a part of the information for specifying the plurality of agencies and remarkable machine information for specifying, of print output machines available in the project to be carried out, a given remarkable print output machine ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project to reproduce by a machine in the agency, AAPA further discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies); and a unit for generating predetermined processing parameters as to a print output machine to be used by each agency and the remarkable print output machine, and retaining the predetermined processing parameters in a database, each agency having a plurality of remarkable print output machines ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies and inherently processing parameters to carry out the print commands well known in the art); and the device link profile information for each

remarkable print output machine at the agency, and the remarkable print output machine being a print output machine available in a final output process ([0004]-[0005];
AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein delivering the data to each agency, the selection is indicative of at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies wherein a device link information to obviously specify the device or agency wherein a production agency comprises a plurality machines remarkably like a publisher, prepress, an output machine and the like).

However, AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein a data acceptance server group, a preprocessing server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit; and the device link profile information containing color reproducibility information for each remarkable print output machine at the agency; and wherein a server unit belonging to the preprocessing server group judges whether data related to print service accepted from a delivery source by one server unit of the data acceptance server group satisfies a predetermined providing condition or not, and when the server unit concludes that the data does not satisfy the providing condition, one server unit of the data processing server group acquires, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters as to a print output machine to be used by an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data and the remarkable print output machine, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters; one server unit of the data delivery server group distributes the processed data to the agency which will be a delivery

destination of the data; and wherein when the server unit of the preprocessing server group concludes that the data related to print service and accepted from the delivery source satisfies the providing condition, the data is distributed directly to the agency which will be a delivery destination.

Kiyosu discloses wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit (Fig.9, [0092]-[0093]; Kiyosu discloses a plurality of client systems, centers, general purpose computer wherein each one is indicative of a server to accept, process, and deliver data to a production company, a flatbed machine in the plate company, a printer in the printing company), and the device link profile information containing color reproducibility information for each remarkable print output machine at the agency (Figs. 6 and 9 and [0020]; Kiyosu discloses a color image print processing system wherein individual agencies or clients each comprising one or more output devices wherein performing individual color conversion is prevented wherein generating a color information comprising target information and color reproducibility information for each device at the agency, color matched and outputted to the clients so that the target color and the original data are printed out in the same hue and tint); wherein a server unit belonging to the preprocessing server group judges whether data related to print service accepted from a delivery source by one server unit of the data acceptance server group satisfies a predetermined providing condition or not ([0090]; Kiyosu discloses a preprocessing method wherein a calibration is performed between received predetermined parameters from the delivery source and data stored in storage 14

wherein a collation is conducted to determine whether color reproduction is performed correctly), and when the server unit concludes that the data does not satisfy the providing condition, one server unit of the data processing server group acquires, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters as to a print output machine to be used by an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data and the remarkable print output machine, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters (Fig.6, [0055], [0066] and [0097]; Kiyosu discloses a unit 653 to generate device link profiles specific to target color and destination device stored in the storage section 14 wherein the color conversion section 14 acquires conversion information of the output units from the database or storage section 14 based on model ID, print reproducibility, wherein a given is designated as output destination which can inherently be a default or remarkable printer with equivalent print reproduction means); one server unit of the data delivery server group distributes the processed data to the agency which will be a delivery destination of the data (Fig.6; the server 601 also comprises the data delivery unit to distribute processing to the destination devices assigned by the terminal 653); and wherein when the server unit of the preprocessing server group concludes that the data related to print service and accepted from the delivery source satisfies the providing condition, the data is distributed directly to the agency which will be a delivery destination (Fig.6 and [0055]; Kiyosu discloses print job parameters are transmitted to the server 601 in advance wherein collation is done with data stored in storage 14 and what is received, upon

satisfactory collation, conversion processing is performed and the data is distributed inherently to predetermined target destination).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit; a database generated in advance based on profile information and color reproducibility information as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or agencies, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add the server groups and the database to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 11 (depends on claim 10), AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein the number of server units belonging to each of the data acceptance server group, the preprocessing server group, the data processing server group and the data delivery server group is determined in accordance with a load on the server units in each of the server groups.

However, Kiyosu discloses wherein the number of server units belonging to each of the data acceptance server group, the preprocessing server group, the data

processing server group and the data delivery server group is determined in accordance with a load on the server units in each of the server groups (Fig.9, [0092]-[0093]; Kiyosu discloses a plurality of center servers, general purpose computers, clients indicative of individual servers wherein accepting, execute preprocessing of color information to simulate an output color to match a print result wherein the number of servers or CPU or processors needed to acquire profiles and run those printers inherently depends on the amount of machines they had to run).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein number of server units in accordance with a load on the server units in each of the server groups and a preprocessor as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or agencies in an orderly fashion, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device to simulate a desired output color thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add sequence information to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

As per claim 12, AAPA discloses a print service support method for supporting print service for producing prints related to data while delivering the data among a plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a

plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies or profile information to carry out a project and inherently processing parameters to carry out the print commands well known in the art to reproduce by a machine in the agency) the method comprising: to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies); to generate project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project, the project information including at least a part of the information for specifying the plurality of agencies and remarkable machine information for specifying, of print output machines available in the project to be carried out, a given remarkable print output machine ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project to reproduce by a machine in the agency, AAPA further discloses transmitting data to a selected agency wherein a computing device such as a system manager, a computer or a print server to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies); to generate predetermined processing parameters as to a print output machine to be used by each agency and the remarkable print output machine, and retain the predetermined processing parameters in a database ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein the print orders or data delivered include project information as

information for specifying agencies and inherently processing parameters to carry out the print commands well known in the art in a database or a storage medium), each agency having a plurality of remarkable print output machines and the device link profile information for each remarkable print output machine at the agency, and the remarkable print output machine being a print output machine available in a final output process ([0004]-[0005]; AAPA discloses a manager selecting among a plurality of agencies to reproduce print orders wherein delivering the data to each agency, the selection is indicative of at least one piece of the information for specifying the agencies wherein a device link information to obviously specify the device or agency wherein a production agency comprises a plurality machines remarkably like a publisher, prepress, an output machine and the like).

However, AAPA does not specifically disclose wherein using a data acceptance server group, a preprocessing server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit, allowing a server unit belonging to the preprocessing server group to judge whether data related to print service accepted from a delivery source by one server unit of the data acceptance server group satisfies a predetermined providing condition or not; wherein when the server unit concludes that the data does not satisfy the providing condition, one server unit of the data processing server group acquires, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters as to a print output machine to be used by an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data and the remarkable print output machine, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters; one

server unit of the data delivery server group distributes the processed data to the agency which will be a delivery destination of the data; when the server unit belonging to the preprocessing server group concludes that the data satisfies the providing condition, the data related to the print service and accepted from the delivery source is distributed directly to the agency which will be a delivery destination; and wherein at least one of the steps is executed using a processor.

Kiyosu discloses wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit (Fig.9, [0092]-[0093]; Kiyosu discloses a plurality of client systems, centers, general purpose computer wherein each one is indicative of a server to accept, process, and deliver data to a production company, a flatbed machine in the plate company, a printer in the printing company); the device link profile information containing color reproducibility information for each remarkable print output machine at the agency (Figs. 6 and 9 and [0020]; Kiyosu discloses a color image print processing system wherein individual agencies or clients each comprising one or more output devices wherein performing individual color conversion is prevented wherein generating a color information comprising target information and color reproducibility information for each device at the agency, color matched and outputted to the clients so that the target color and the original data are printed out in the same hue and tint); allowing one of the server groups to accept information for specifying the plurality of agencies (Fig.6; the server 601 comprises the accepting unit wherein the agencies or the clients comprising the printers are designated); allowing one of the server groups to generate project

information as information for specifying agencies to carry out a project, the project information including at least a part of the information for specifying the plurality of agencies and remarkable machine information for specifying, of print output machines available in the project to be carried out, a given remarkable print output machine (Fig.6, [0055], [0066] and [0097]; Kiyosu discloses a unit 653 to generate device link profiles pertaining to target printers in advance stored in the storage section 14 comprising model ID, print reproducibility, wherein a given printer is designated as output destination which can inherently be a default or a remarkable printer with equivalent print reproduction means); allowing one of the server groups to generate predetermined processing parameters as to a print output machine to be used by each agency and there remarkable print output machine, and retain the predetermined processing parameters in a database (Fig.6, Kiyosu discloses the instruction terminal 653 generates predetermined parameters or profiles specific to target destination color reproducibility wherein the database or storage section 14 stores those contents); and allowing a server unit belonging to the preprocessing server group to judge whether data related to print service accepted from a delivery source by one server unit of the data acceptance server group satisfies a predetermined providing condition or not ([0090]; Kiyosu discloses a preprocessing method wherein a calibration is performed between received predetermined parameters from the delivery source and data stored in storage 14 wherein a collation is conducted to determine whether color reproduction is performed correctly); wherein when the server unit concludes that the data does not satisfy the providing condition, one server unit of the data processing server group

acquires, from the database, the predetermined processing parameters as to a print output machine to be used by an agency which will be a delivery destination of the data and the remarkable print output machine, and processes the data based on the acquired predetermined processing parameters (Fig.6, [0055], [0066] and [0097]; Kiyosu discloses a unit 653 to generate device link profiles specific to target color and destination device stored in the storage section 14 wherein the color conversion section 14 acquires conversion information of the output units from the database or storage section 14 based on model ID, print reproducibility, wherein a given is designated as output destination which can inherently be a default or remarkable printer with equivalent print reproduction means); one server unit of the data delivery server group distributes the processed data to the agency which will be a delivery destination of the data (Fig.6; the server 601 also comprises the data delivery unit to distribute processing to the destination devices assigned by the terminal 653); and when the server unit belonging to the preprocessing server group concludes that the data satisfies the providing condition, the data related to the print service and accepted from the delivery source is distributed directly to the agency which will be a delivery destination (Fig.6 and [0055]; Kiyosu discloses print job parameters are transmitted to the server 601 in advance wherein collation is done with data stored in storage 14 and what is received, upon satisfactory collation, conversion processing is performed and the data is distributed inherently to predetermined target destination) and wherein at least one of the steps is executed using a processor (Fig. 1; Kiyosu discloses an instruction terminal wherein a processor execute the steps to perform a print processing).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Kiyosu to the teachings of AAPA to include wherein a data acceptance server group, a data processing server group and a data delivery server group, each group including at least one server unit; a database generated in advance based on profile information and color reproducibility information as discussed above to distribute print orders to different centers or agencies, increase throughput wherein generate a target output color that best matches the properties of a printing result of a targeted output device thereby minimizing color deviation between different output machines in different agencies wherein one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would have been motivated to add the server groups and the database to the teachings of AAPA according to known methods to yield predictable results (Kiyosu, [0007], [0030], [0055]-[0058]).

Conclusion

8. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

a) Tetsushi et al (JP Pub. No 10- 117290) discloses an image transfer device wherein transfer color image information or the like and to allow a receiver side to reproduce the information, without imposing a large load on a specific transmitter and useless communication in a network wherein an image server 2 sends color information or the like and location information to specify the location of profile information, corresponding

to the color image information or object information to a network. In an image display device 3, a reception means 30 receives the color image information or the like and the location information, a call means 34 calls the profile information, corresponding to the location information from a profile storage means 10 via the network and a color correction means.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marcellus Augustin whose telephone number is (571)270-3384. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 0900 to 1700.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benny Tieu can be reached on 571-272-7490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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